

ORDINANCE 11-15

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF FAULKNER, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: **“AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR FAULKNER COUNTY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”**

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Arkansas has in Ark. Code Ann. § 14-268-101 et seq., delegated the responsibility of local governmental units to adopt regulations to minimize flood losses. Therefore, the Quorum Court of Faulkner County, Arkansas, does hereby ordain as follows:

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has identified Special Flood Hazard Areas of Faulkner County in the current scientific and engineering report entitled “The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Faulkner County,” dated 12/19/2006, with an effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated 12/19/2006.

WHEREAS, these Special Flood Hazard Areas are subject to periodic flooding events that result in loss of life and property, pose health and safety hazards, disrupt commerce and governmental services, and cause extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare.

WHEREAS, these periodic flooding events are exacerbated by the cumulative effect of floodplain developments which cause an increase in flood heights and velocities, and by the placement of inadequately elevated, inadequately flood-proofed or otherwise unprotected structures or uses vulnerable to floods into Special Flood Hazard Areas. Such structures or uses are inherently hazardous to other lands because of their adverse impact on flooding events.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF FAULKNER COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. LANDS TO WHICH THIS ORDINANCE APPLIES - the ordinance shall apply to all Special Flood Hazard Areas within the jurisdiction of Faulkner County.

SECTION 2. METHODS OF REDUCING FLOOD LOSSES - this ordinance uses the following methods to accomplish the stated purpose:

- A. This ordinance restricts or prohibits structures or uses in Special Flood Hazard Areas that adversely impact health, safety or property during flooding events;
- B. This ordinance requires protection against flood damage for structures or uses vulnerable to floods at the time of initial construction or after substantial improvement of the structure, or after substantial damage has occurred;

- C. This ordinance controls the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels and natural protective barriers which are involved in the accommodation and transport of flood waters;
- D. This ordinance controls floodplain development (structural development, placement of manufactured structures, clearing, grading, mining, drilling, dredging, placement of fill, excavating, watercourse alteration, drainage improvements, roadway or bridge construction, individual water or sewer installations and other activities) which may increase flood damage by increasing flood elevations, flood water velocities, or flood discharge patterns;
- E. This ordinance regulates the construction of flood barriers which unnaturally divert floodwaters or which may adversely impact other lands.

SECTION 3. FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION CODE ADOPTED BY REFERENCE - there is hereby adopted by reference a “**Flood Damage Prevention Code for Faulkner County, Arkansas,**” dated August 18, 2008 and as amended on August 16, 2011. A copy of the referenced code shall be filed in the office of the Faulkner County Clerk and shall be available for inspection and copying by any person during normal office hours.

SECTION 4. ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS - this ordinance does not repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. Whenever there is a conflict or overlap between this ordinance and another ordinance, easement, covenant, or deed restriction, the instrument with the more stringent restrictions applies.

SECTION 5. INTERPRETATION - in the interpretation and application of this ordinance, all provisions must:

- A. Be considered as minimum requirements;
- B. Be liberally construed in favor of the governing body; and
- C. Be deemed to neither limit nor repeal any other powers granted under State statutes.

SECTION 6. WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY - the degree of flood protection required by this ordinance is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes. Documented scientific and engineering data form the basis for these requirements. On rare occasions, flooding events greater than those considered for this ordinance will occur. In addition, flood heights may increase over time due to man-made or natural causes. This ordinance does not imply that land outside Special Flood Hazard Areas will be free from flooding, nor that strict adherence to this ordinance protects uses permitted within Special Flood Hazard Areas from all flood damages. This ordinance specifically does not create liability on the part of the community, nor any official or employee of the community, for any flood damages that result while strictly following this ordinance, or from any lawful administrative decision made under the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 7. COMPLIANCE - constructing, locating, substantially altering or changing the use of any structure or land after the effective date of this ordinance requires full compliance with the provisions of this ordinance and all other applicable regulations.

SECTION 8. PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE - flood hazards are reduced by compliance with the provisions of this code. Accordingly, enforcement of this ordinance discourages non-compliance and is a recognized mechanism for flood hazard reduction.

- A. The Floodplain Administrator must enforce the provisions of this ordinance and is authorized to:
 - a. Issue cease and desist orders on non-compliant floodplain development projects;
 - b. Notify local law enforcement officers and provide the requisite information and evidence so as to afford them the necessary tools to issue citations for non-compliance;
 - c. Determine the presence of a nuisance and if a nuisance is determined to be in existence, the Floodplain Administrator may petition a court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin the person or entity which owns the property or which is in actual or apparent control of the premises from maintaining the nuisance and the maintenance thereof may be abated. This action is not to be construed as a limitation placed upon any other citizen from filing an action to enjoin and abate the condition;
 - d. Request that FEMA file a 1316 Action (Denial of Flood Insurance) against non-compliant properties; and
 - e. Take any other lawful action necessary to prevent or remedy any instance of non-compliance with the provisions of this ordinance.
- B. It is a misdemeanor to violate or fail to comply with any provision of this ordinance.
- C. Any person found, in a court of competent jurisdiction, guilty of violating this ordinance is subject to fines of not more than \$500 per day for each violation; in addition the defendant is subject to payment of all associated court costs and costs involved in the case.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY - if any court of competent jurisdiction finds that any section, clause, sentence, or phrase of this ordinance is invalid or unconstitutional, that finding in no way affects the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 10. EMERGENCY CLAUSE - it is hereby found and declared by the Faulkner County Quorum Court that severe flooding has occurred in the past within its jurisdiction and will certainly occur within the future; that flooding is likely to result in infliction of serious personal injury or death, and is likely to result in substantial injury or destruction of property within its jurisdiction; in order to effectively comply with minimum standards for coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program; and in order to effectively remedy the situation described herein, it is necessary that this ordinance become effective immediately.

Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this ordinance, being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Dated: August 16, 2011

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Attest: _____
Angela Smith
Quorum Court Secretariat
Faulkner County, AR

Approved: _____
Preston Scroggin
Faulkner County Judge
Faulkner County, AR